REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-18, and 23-27 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 13-18 and 23-25. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 8-12, AND 26-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 8-12, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0120339 (Ronciak) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0249998 (Rajagopalan et al.). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons.

i. Rajagopalan et al. fail to teach assembling a coalesced array from a coalesced physical buffer and one or more non-coalesced physical or virtual buffers, as provided in claim 1.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for partial coalescing transmit buffers, comprising selectively copying either selected ones of virtual buffers or selected ones of physical buffers into a coalesced physical buffer based on an analysis, and assembling a coalesced array from the coalesced physical buffer and one or more respective non-selected and non-coalesced virtual or physical buffers. The Office Action of 12/1/10 concedes that Ronciak fails to teach assembling a coalesced array from a coalesced physical buffer and one or more respective non-coalesced physical or virtual buffers, but instead relies upon Rajagopalan et al. to teach this limitation. (*See, O.A. of 12/1/10*, paragraph extending between pp. 2-3). However, as will be more fully appreciated below, ***Rajagopalan et al. fail to teach assembling a coalesced array from a coalesced physical buffer and one or more non-coalesced physical or virtual buffers***, as recited in claim 1.

Rajagopalan et al. teach a method for segmenting outbound data frames, having a format shown in Fig. 10A, into segments that can be coalesced (as claimed coalesced array) and transmitted from Transmit Engine 320, in a format shown in 10B,

to Transmit Interface 330. (*See*, pars. [0132] - [0134]). In step 1101 of the method, a DMA engine 310 receives a transmit descriptor that "includes a physical address of the location of a transmit buffer... [that includes] a prototype header [associated with claimed non-selected and non-coalesced virtual or physical buffer] and data for transmission [associated with claimed coalesced physical buffer]". (*See*, par. [0134]). The DMA engine 310 reads the transmit buffer and outputs the transmit descriptor and transmit buffer to Transmit Engine 320 (step 1103), which subsequently determines a portion of the data for transmission included in the transmit buffer (step 1111). (*See*, par. [0135]). Therefore, Rajagopalan et al. teach forming coalesced outbound data frames from a prototype header and data for transmission, ***both of which are stored in the same transmit buffer.***

In contrast, claim 1 recites ***assembling a coalesced array from a coalesced physical buffer and one or more non-coalesced physical or virtual buffers***. Therefore, claim 1 requires that a coalesced array is formed from a coalesced buffer and one or more ***separate*** non-coalesced buffers (*e.g.*, claimed coalesced and non-coalesced buffers are separate since a buffer cannot be both a coalesced and a non-coalesced buffer).

Since Rajagopalan et al. teach forming coalesced outbound data frames from a prototype header and data for transmission, both of which are ***stored in a single transmit buffer, Rajagopalan et al. cannot teach a coalesced array formed from a coalesced buffer and one or more non-coalesced buffers***, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Rajagopalan et al. fail to teach the limitations of claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-12 and 26-27 depend upon claim 1, and add further limitations thereto. Because the primary references do not teach the present invention of claim 1, claims 8-12 and 26-27 are also non-obvious over the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-12 and 26-27 is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, AMDP772US.

Respectfully submitted,
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